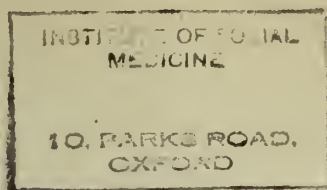


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COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

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ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1949

-----oO-----

To the Department of Health for Scotland,

and the County Council of the County of Caithness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report as the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Caithness, for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

As I did not take up my appointment here until July, 1949, much of the work recorded in this Report was directed by Dr. G. Dick, Interim Medical Officer of Health.

My appointment here in the dual capacity of Medical Officer of Health and District Hospitals' Officer for the Northern Regional Hospital Board (Scotland) has meant that there has been no divorcement of some Local Authority functions such as has occurred in many other Authorities. The retention of these duties and the addition of fresh ones on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board has made the appointment an interesting one, albeit a very busy one.

The main result of this dual appointment is that there is no lack of co-operation or liaison between the services of the Local Authority and those provided by the Northern Regional Hospital Board.

The health of the County continues to be on a high standard with the single exception of the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of new cases reported has risen from 13 in 1948 to 22 in 1949. There was no single case of diphtheria in the County during the year; and in common with many other places in the country, the Infantile Mortality Rate has fallen from 41 per 1000 in 1948 to 34 per 1000 in 1949.

The longevity of the people in Caithness, coupled with the emigration of young people, raises a particularly difficult local problem of finding accommodation for chronic sick and the aged and infirm.

I should like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate the support given to me by Caithness County Council and the officials in the Northern Regional Hospital Board (Scotland). To my Medical Assistant, the members of the Health Department and my staff, I wish to convey my thanks for their loyal support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. McCoubrey

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Bridge Street,
WICK.

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COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION:-

The Estimated Population for 1949, according to figures supplied by the Registrar General, was as follows.-

County of Caithness - Landward area.....	12,989
Burgh of Wick.....	7,238
Burgh of Thurso.....	3,070
	<hr/>
	23,297
	<hr/>

The number of Births, Marriages and Deaths registered in the County and in each of the Burghs, with corrected figures, is as follows.-

	<u>County.</u>	<u>Wick,</u>	<u>Thurso.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Total Births Registered (including				
Illegitimate).....	196	195	23	414
Total Births - Corrected.....	222	150	67	439
" " " Males.....	114	88	35	237
" " " Females.....	108	62	32	202
" " " Illegitimate.....	20	11	4	35
Still Births Registered (including				
Illegitimate).....	5	5	1	11
Still Births - Corrected.....	7	5	1	13
Marriages Registered.....	53	78	40	171
Deaths Registered.....	207	92	38	337
" Corrected.....	197	112	50	359
" " Males.....	101	53	23	177
" " Females.....	96	59	27	182

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES:-

Population estimated to middle of 1949.....	23,297
Birth Rate (Corrected)(per 1000 Estimated Population).....	18.8
Illegitimate Rate per 100 Births.....	8.0
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Births.....	29.0
Death Rate (Corrected)(per 1000 Estimated Population).....	15.4
Death Rate (Adjusted for age and sex distribution - per 1000 of Estimated Population).....	11.5
Marriage Rate.....	7.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births).....	34.0

BIRTHS:-/

BIRTHS:-

The number of Births registered during the past ten years is shown in the following Table.-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of Births.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000</u> <u>Estimated Population.</u>
1949	439	18.8
1948	461	19.5
1947	328	22.3
1946	505	21.3
1945	381	15.5
1944	475	18.9
1943	515	19.9
1942	549	21.1
1941	540	21.0
1940	461	17.9
1939	419	16.3

Of the total live Births, 31 were Illegitimate, equal to a Rate of 8.0 per 100 Births.

STILL BIRTHS:-

There were 11 Still Births, giving a Rate of 29 per 1000 total Births, including Still Births, as compared with 9 in 1948, giving a Rate of 19 per 1000 total Births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:-

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 15 as compared with 19 in 1948. The Mortality Rate for the County was 34 per 1000 live Births, as compared with 41 for the previous year.

The following Table gives the causes of death.-

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Wk.</u>	<u>1-4</u> <u>Wks.</u>	<u>4 Wks.</u> <u>-3 Mths.</u>	<u>3-6</u> <u>Mths.</u>	<u>6-12</u> <u>Mths.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	1	1	2
Gastro-Enteritis.....	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital Debility, etc....	6	3	-	-	-	9
Causes ill-defined.....	1	-	-	1	-	2
	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>

MARRIAGES:-

The Marriages numbered 171, equivalent to a Rate of 7.3 per 1000 Estimated Population. The figure last year was 184, giving a Rate of 7.8 per 1000 Estimated Population.

DEATHS:- /

DEATHS:-

Deaths from all causes, corrected for transfers, numbered 337, of which 177 were Males and 182 Females, giving a corrected and adjusted Rate of 11.9 per 1000 of Estimated Population. The figure for 1948 was 10.0.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:-

There was one death from Other Puerperal Causes.

AGES AT DEATH:-

	<u>Landward</u> <u>Area.</u>	<u>Wick</u> <u>Burgh.</u>	<u>Thurso</u> <u>Burgh.</u>
Under 1 year.....	7	6	2
1 - 5 years.....	2	2	-
5 - 15 ".....	4	2	2
15 - 25 ".....	1	4	1
25 - 35 ".....	4	2	2
35 - 45 ".....	5	3	3
45 - 65 ".....	26	19	16
65 - 85 ".....	127	62	18
85 years and over.....	21	12	6
	<u>197</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>50</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH:-

	<u>Landward</u> <u>Area.</u>	<u>Wick</u> <u>Burgh.</u>	<u>Thurso</u> <u>Burgh.</u>
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.....	1	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	1	-
Influenza.....	1	-	-
Other Infectious or Parasitic Disease.....	1	-	-
Cancer, Malignant Tumours.....	26	18	5
Tumours, non-malignant or not defined.....	-	1	-
Other General Diseases.....	2	3	2
Meningitis, Disease of spinal cord.....	1	-	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	23	13	9
Other Diseases of Nervous System.....	1	2	2
Heart Disease.....	87	26	17
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	14	1	1
Bronchitis.....	1	5	-
Pneumonia.....	-	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	3	2	1
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer.....	2	2	-
Diarrhoea (All ages).....	2	2	-
Appendicitis.....	2	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	-	-	2
Other Diseases of Liver.....	-	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases.....	2	1	-
Nephritis, acute or chronic.....	4	4	2
Other Diseases of Genito-urinary System....	2	-	1
Other Puerperal Causes.....	1	-	-
Diseases of skin and organs of movement....	1	-	-
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	6	4	1
Old Age.....	2	15	1
Suicide.....	3	-	-
Road Transport Accidents.....	1	2	-
Other Violence.....	2	5	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown.....	4	1	1
	<u>197</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>50</u>

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:-/

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:-

(a) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.-

There are no Ante-natal or Post-natal Clinics in the County but once each month the services of a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician are available in Wick and Thurso to patients referred by their own doctors.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics.-

There are two Child Welfare Clinics in the County - one at Wick and the other at Thurso.

In May, 1949, the alterations carried out on the premises in Sinclair Terrace, Wick, gifted to the Local Authority for Clinic purposes were completed and the new premises which are centrally situated, are much more commodious than the original Centre in Bank Row which was destroyed by enemy action in 1940. The building is very substantial and the premises have a very bright and cheerful appearance. The Clinic is now known as "The Bruce Memorial Child Welfare Clinic."

The Clinic at Thurso is still held at Manson Lane which is very convenient for all parts of the Burgh. Children from the surrounding rural areas also attend.

Supply of Welfare Foods.-

The existing arrangements with the Ministry of Food for the supply of welfare foods at the Child Welfare Clinics continue to function satisfactorily. During the year 23,695 tins of National Dried Milk, 4,912 bottles of Cod Liver Oil and 14,130 bottles of Orange Juice were issued.

In addition to the Welfare Foods supplied by the Ministry of Food, Irradex, Virol and Farex are provided by the Local Authority for sale at the Clinics.

During the year the number of children who attended the Clinics was.-

	<u>Under 1 year.</u>	<u>1-5 years.</u>
Number of children who attended.....	247	79
Number of attendances made.....	3506	1990

(c) Dental Care.-

It has been found impossible to provide dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, and pre-school children, as there is only one Dental Officer in the County employed by the County Council whose time is fully occupied with the treatment of school children.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes.- None.

(e) Day Nurseries.- None.

(f)/

- (f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of the Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947.-

None.

- (g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948.-

None.

MIDWIFERY:-

- (i) Total number of Births occurring in the area during the year.-

Live Births.....	403
Still Births.....	11

Total Births.....	414
-------------------	-----

- (ii) Total number of Births occurring in Institutions..... 251

- (iii) Total number of Births occurring at home..... 163
(1 born in ambulance)

- (iv) Number of Births occurring at home classified to show nature of attendance at Birth.-

Midwives employed by Authority (including those engaged on a <u>fee-per-case basis.</u>	<u>Private practising Midwives.</u>
--	---

Cases dealt with under Section
22 of the National Health
Service Act, 1947.-

Doctor engaged and present at confinement.....	65	-
Doctor engaged and not present at confinement.....	29	-
Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	-	-

Other Domiciliary Cases.-

Doctor engaged.....	56 (1 born in	2
Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	9 ambulance)	2
Without doctor or midwife.....	-	-
	159	4

- (v) Medical aid under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915.-

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, by a midwife.-

- (a) For Domiciliary Cases.-

(i)/ .

- (i) Where the Medical Practitioner had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service..... 0
- (ii) Others..... 2
- (b) For cases in Institutions..... 0
- (vi) Administration of Analgesics.-
 - (a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.-.
 - (i) Domiciliary..... 5
 - (ii) In Institutions..... 0
 - (b) Number of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year..... 4
 - (c) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of Analgesics in use at 31st December, 1949, by domiciliary midwives employed by the Authority..... 4
 - (d) Number of sets on order at 31st December, 1949..... 0
 - (e) Number of cases in which Analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year..... 9
 - (f) Number of cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1949..... 13

HEALTH VISITING:-

The sixteen District Nurses in the County carry out Health Visiting work and during the year the following visits were made.-

	<u>First Visits.</u>	<u>Total Visits.</u>
Expectant Mothers.....	72	102
Children under 1 year of age.....	399	4381
Children 1-5 years.....	202	6078
Tuberculosis cases.....	25	259

HOME NURSING:-

Home Nursing is carried out by the District Nurses and the following is a note of the number of cases seen and the number of visits paid during the year.-

Number of cases attended by Home Nurses..... 2206
 Number of visits paid by Nurses to those cases.....34431

DOMESTIC HELP:- /

DOMESTIC HELP:-

- (i) Number of Home Helps employed at end of year.-
- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|
| (a) | Whole-time..... | 1 |
| (b) | Part-time..... | 0 |
| (c) | Retaining Fee basis..... | 0 |
- (ii) Number of cases for which Helps were provided during the year.. 1
- (iii) Average period of assistance..... 6 months.

The care of the aged is a particularly difficult problem in Caithness. Due to the increasing span of life generally seen throughout the country and the deserved reputation of Caithness people for longevity, the problem of the aged is felt more acutely here than in most other places. The emigration to the South of many younger members of families accentuates the position and increases the calls for home nursing or the services of Domestic Helps for old people living alone. For the future one foresees a greatly increased demand for Domestic Helps and for Part III accommodation under the National Assistance Act.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION:-

An arrangement has been made whereby the Registrar of Births and Deaths hands to every person registering a birth, a pamphlet prepared by the Medical Officer of Health, indicating the desirability of infant vaccination and urging that the operation be carried out before the child reaches the age of six months. The Local Authority has agreed to pay fees in respect of such vaccinations to the medical practitioners in the area on submission of the form prescribed by the Secretary of State giving details of the treatment carried out. So far the fees to be paid for those reports have not yet been fixed.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was.-

Primary Vaccinations.-

Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day.....	50
Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Reaction 5th-7th day.....	4
Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.....	1
No local reaction.....	8

Re-Vaccinations.-

Typical vaccinia greatest 7th-10th day.....	9
Accelerated (Vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day.....	2
Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.....	6
No local reaction.....	3

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA:-

The Scheme for immunisation against Diphtheria continues to function very satisfactorily. As formerly parents are advised of the desirability of having their children immunised as soon as they attain the age of six months. All school children are given a re-inforcing dose by the School Medical Officer.

The following are the numbers immunised during the year.-

Pre-school/

	<u>Number of children who completed Full Course.</u>	<u>Number of Maintenance Inoculations.</u>
Pre-school children.....	336	7
School children.....	28	509

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE:-

TUBERCULOSIS.-

The Clinics established at Wick and Thurso still continue to function. Cases report for investigation, observation and treatment at Bignold and Dunbar Hospitals as requested by the Medical Officer of Health.

In addition to known cases of Tuberculosis, many patients are now being sent by their own medical practitioners for investigation and report. Domiciliary visits are made to patients and ex-patients by the Medical Officers of the Public Health Department and also by the Health Visitors.

The benefit of public lectures, the more enlightened attitude of the people generally towards the disease and the excellent co-operation of the general practitioners in the County have led to a considerable increase in anti-T.B. activities and has increased the number of observation cases at Chest Clinics and the examination of contacts of old and new cases of T.B.

The County Council have adopted the B.C.G. Scheme promulgated by the Department of Health for Scotland in their circular letter of 17th August, 1949.

Extra Nourishment supplied during the year.-

Number of patients to whom milk was granted.....	26
Number of order forms issued.....	99
Number of patients to whom Cod Liver Oil was supplied..	12
Number of jars issued.....	35

In all notified cases of Tuberculosis - Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary - routine investigation is made of the milk supply with a view to ascertaining the possibility of the milk being a source of infection. On those investigations the services of the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture were readily available.

The following Tables show the number of cases notified in the County (including the Burghs) in 1949, the number in which diagnosis was confirmed, the number in Institutions, the number in the area known to be suffering from Tuberculosis as at 31st December, 1949, and the number of deaths during the year.-

I, RETURN OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.-

Pulmonary/

I. RETURN OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.-

	Under								
	5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65+.	Total.
<u>Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	-	-	1	5	5	2	2	1	16
Females.....	-	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	6
Total.....	-	-	1	7	8	2	3	1	22
<u>Non-Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	2	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	10
Females.....	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total.....	2	4	2	3	1	-	-	-	12
<u>Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	2	4	1	8	6	2	2	1	26
Females.....	-	-	2	2	3	-	1	-	8
	2	4	3	10	9	2	3	1	34

II. RETURN OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR IN WHICH DIAGNOSIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.-

	Under								
	5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65+.	Total.
<u>Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	-	-	1	4	5	2	2	1	15
Females.....	-	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	6
Total.....	-	-	1	6	8	2	3	1	21
<u>Non-Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	2	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	10
Females.....	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total.....	2	4	2	3	1	-	-	-	12
<u>Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.-</u>									
Males.....	2	4	1	7	6	2	2	1	25
Females.....	-	-	2	2	3	-	1	-	8
	2	4	3	9	9	2	3	1	33

III. RETURN SHOWING THE NUMEER OF CASES WITH THEIR HOME RESIDENCE IN THE AREA WHO RECEIVED TREATMENT IN SANATORIA OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR.-

	In Institutions		Admitted		Discharged		Died in		In Institns.	
	on 1/1/49.		in 1949.		in 1949.		Institns.		31/12/49.	
<u>Pulmonary.-</u>										
Adults { Males	10		8		8		-		10	
{ Females	4		5		2		-		7	
Children { Males	-		-		-		-		-	
{ Females	1		-		-		1		-	
<u>Non-Pulmonary.-</u>										
Adults { Males	3		4		3		-		3	
{ Females	1		-		1		-		-	
Children { Males	1		2		2		-		1	
{ Females.	-		2		2		-		-	
	20		21		19		1		21	

IV. RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1949,
WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.-

		Under							
		5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65+.Total.
<u>Pulmonary.-</u>									
1. Sputum or other	M.	-	-	-	8	12	6	2	1 29
material examin-									
ed and tubercle	F.	-	-	-	7	4	3	-	- 14
bacilli found....									
2. Sputum or other	M.	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	- 4
material examin-									
ed and tubercle	F.	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	- 5
bacilli never									
found.....									
3. Sputum or other	M.	-	-	1	2	4	2	-	- 9
material not									
examined.....	F.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	- 2
Total.....		-	-	1	24	22	12	3	1 63
<u>Non-Fulmonary.-</u>									
Abdominal.....	M.	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	- 7
	F.	1	1	4	1	1	2	1	- 11
Spine.....	M.	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	- 6
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	- 1
Bones and joints	M.	-	2	1	4	4	2	-	- 13
(exclusive of									
spine).	F.	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	- 3
Superficial	M.	2	3	1	2	-	1	-	- 9
Glands.....	F.	-	5	2	3	-	-	-	- 10
Lupus.....	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	- 1
Other parts or	M.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	- 1
organs.....	F.	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	- 3
Total.....		4	15	10	14	7	12	3	- 65
Pulmonary and									
Non-Pulmonary									
Total.....		4	15	11	38	29	24	6	1 128

V. RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING
THE YEAR WITH PARTICULARS AS TO PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND
DEATH AND BETWEEN DISCHARGE FROM AN INSTITUTION AND DEATH.-

Number/

V. RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR WITH PARTICULARS AS TO PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND DEATH AND BETWEEN DISCHARGE FROM AN INSTITUTION AND DEATH.-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Number of persons who died from Tuberculosis.....	2	3	1	-
Of whom				
Not notified or notified only at or after death.....	-	-	1	-
Notified less than 1 month before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 1-3 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 3-6 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 6-12 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 1-2 years before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified over 2 years before death.....	2	3	-	-
	—	—	—	—
	2	3	1	-
	—	—	—	—
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an Institution.....	-	-	-	-
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an Institution.....	2	3	-	-

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

There were 29 notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year, this being a decrease of 22 from the previous year. In three cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. The cases notified were.-

	<u>Landward Area.</u>	<u>Wick Burgh.</u>	<u>Thurso Burgh.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas.....	2	-	1	3
Acute primary pneumonia.....	2	-	4	6
Pneumonia (not otherwise notifiable).....	8	2	1	11
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	1	-	1
Para-typhoid B.....	2	-	-	2
Pneumococcal Meningitis.....	1	-	-	1
Diphtheria.....	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.....	1	2	-	3
	—	—	—	—
	17	5	7	29
	—	—	—	—

Cerebro-spinal Fever.- /

Cerebro-spinal Fever.-

There was one case of Cerebro-spinal Fever notified, a child of six years of age, who died on the same day as the notification was received in this office.

Para-Typhoid B.-

Diagnosis was confirmed in the two cases notified. Both patients, a mother and daughter, made uneventful recoveries.

Diphtheria.-

One suspected case was admitted to hospital but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Scarlet Fever.-

Three cases were admitted to hospital, but in two of the cases, the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Pneumococcal Meningitis.-

The case admitted to hospital, a man of 34 years of age, made an uneventful recovery.

Puerperal Pyrexia.-

One case was admitted to hospital and made an uneventful recovery.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.-

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the administration and general supervision of the Mental Health Service of the County and he is assisted in the general supervision by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and the Authorised Officers.

No arrangements have yet been made with the Northern Regional Hospital Board for the services of a visiting Psychiatrist, owing to the shortage of such personnel, and no psychiatric social workers have yet been employed.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.-

In terms of the Port Sanitary Regulations (Scotland) 1933, nine Declarations of Health were received from the Officers of H.M. Customs at Wick and Thurso.

FOOD SUPPLY.-

A full report of the activities of the County Public Health Department under this heading is given in the County Sanitary Inspector's Report. Co-operation between the Sanitary Inspector's Department and the Medical Officer of Health's Department on any problem arising out of the administration of the various Acts and Regulations has been excellent. There has been no outstanding occurrence of any disease in connection with milk, ice cream, meat or other foods.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.- /

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.-

The Medical Officer of Health for the County of Caithness is also the Medical Superintendent of the former Public Assistance Institution - Forse House, Latheron. As has been generally found throughout the country, the demand for admission to this Institution has far exceeded the number of beds available. Much has been done to add to the comfort of the residents and plans have been approved for further alterations. These, when carried out, will make for better administration of the Institution. A good liaison has been maintained with the Director of Social Welfare, who is also the Clerk to the Forse House Committee, and much time has been spent on this Institution with a view to raising the standard.

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) ACT.-

As there are no Nursing Homes in the County, no work has been carried out under this heading.

HEALTH EDUCATION.-

Caithness County Council make an annual contribution to the Scottish Council for Health Education and advantage has been taken of the various Health propaganda leaflets, etc. which have been distributed to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, schools and tuberculosis patients.

GENERAL SANITATION.-

With the exception of the Burghs of Wick and Thurso, the water supplies in the County are not satisfactory. Many districts are dependent on wells and springs and during the summer months great difficulty is experienced in obtaining water supplies. This factor is governing the allocation of new houses in the County as it is felt that it is useless to erect houses with all modern conveniences if a water supply is not available. A County Water Scheme has been approved by the Department of Health for Scotland and it is expected that the first stage of this work will commence during 1951. By this means, it is hoped to maintain a satisfactory water supply throughout the County.

